



# Ifpra Circular

International Federation of Park and Recreation Administration  
Asia Pacific Regional Newsletter

ABN: 25 818 601 344

## Coordinating the Science to Combat Salinity

With salinity posing a threat to millions of hectares of Australian land, it is imperative that the best, most up-to-date science is being correctly applied on the ground to combat the problem.

To ensure this is happening, the Australian Parliament's Science and Innovation Committee is commencing a new inquiry into the management and coordination of Australia's salinity-science effort.

The central issue for the committee is to examine whether and how the government can ensure the best scientific knowledge and expertise is being shared and applied.

The committee will examine how the relevant science (including new scientific, technical and engineering knowledge) is being used in the management, implementation and coordination of salinity programs.



*The River Murray's rising saline tide, near Red Cliffs, Victoria. Photo: Russell Shakespeare/Newspics*

The scale of the salinity problem and the magnitude of its effects and predicted costs reinforce the urgency and importance of addressing the problem.

Salinity affects regions in all states of Australia. Some 5.5 million hectares are at risk or already affected by dryland salinity. If current rates of salinisation continue, this could increase to 17 million hectares within 50 years. Salinity's impacts include declining river quality, the loss of productive land, damage to farm equipment, damage to public and urban infrastructure, and the loss of biodiversity and wetlands. Dryland salinity is currently estimated to cost \$A270 million per year in lost agricultural production, damage to infrastructure and lost environmental assets.

Numerous programs and agencies are contributing to the science effort for fighting salinity. Details of the terms of reference appear on the inquiry website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/scin/salinity>

### Expression of Interest

**The Commission is calling expressions of interest for hosting the 2008 and 2011 Regional Congress. Please contact the Secretary, Mr John Brandenburg, for further information.**

Visit the IFPRA Asia-Pacific Web Site: [www.zip.com.au/~ifpra\\_ap](http://www.zip.com.au/~ifpra_ap)

# Remarkable Recreation Queenstown, New Zealand 2004

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The New Zealand Recreation Association national conference will take place in Queenstown, New Zealand from August 22 - 25, 2004. IFPRA members are invited to attend and contribute to the Remarkable Recreation Conference.

Remarkable Queenstown is the adventure capital of the world. Behind this picture is considerable commercial enterprise, leading the world in safety practices and risk management. See why Queenstown is the leading New Zealand example of commercial recreation and how this is complementing the community open space and recreation facilities. Explore the conflicts and synergies of the commercial and public recreation sectors and what can be learned from each.



Remarkable Queenstown is nestled on the shores of Lake Wakatipu, overlooked by the majestic Southern Alps. The town was named because "...it was fit for *Queen Victoria*." Queenstown is today recognised internationally as New Zealand's premier visitor destination, surrounded by world heritage sites including Fiordland, Mt Aspiring and Westland national parks.

For more information contact Paul Wilson, IFPRA Commissioner for New Zealand. Email: paulw@qldc.govt.nz or see [www.nzrecreation.org.nz](http://www.nzrecreation.org.nz)

## How Conservation Agreements Can Help Save a Threatened Species

North Queensland's Cassowaries, the oldman of the rainforest

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The southern cassowary (*Casuarius casuarius johnsonii*) is Australia's largest bird, and the largest terrestrial vertebrate in Queensland's rainforest. There are two distinct populations - one on Cape York, the other in the Wet Tropics.

The southern cassowary is an endangered species, listed under both State and Federal Legislation in Australia. The importance of the cassowary for the wet tropics cannot be overstated, as they are important dispersal agents for over 150 rainforest plants, and for many they are the sole dispersal agents. The loss and decline of the cassowary has serious ramifications for the structure and the composition of its forest habitat. They are also important from an indigenous cultural perspective. Additionally, as an iconic species for the region, the cassowary is of great importance to tourism, which is a \$A750 million industry for the Wet Tropics.

Threats to the cassowary include being hit by vehicles,

attacked by wild dogs, and competition and interference from feral pigs. However, the main threat to the cassowary is the continued fragmentation and decimation of their habitat. Over 80% of cassowary coastal lowland habitat has been cleared, and the vast majority of the flat tablelands rainforest has suffered a similar fate. Cassowaries in the Wet Tropics area have been fractured into 10 sub-populations, some of which are now at serious risk of becoming genetically isolated.

The remaining cassowary habitat exists as a patchwork of land across a variety of tenures with 22% (205,000 hectares) of this outside the protected area estate. Six percent of all cassowary habitat occurs on Unallocated State Land and about 16% is leasehold and freehold land. Protection of this habitat is essential for the long-term survival of the cassowary. Whilst formal protection through establishment of National Parks by the State Government is needed, landholders are in a key position to help save the cassowary through placing

conservation agreements on key cassowary habitat on their property.

Many private landholders in the Wet Tropics have done this with 21 nature refuges covering 5, 607 hectares of land now in existence. This is a significant contribution to nature conservation and if combined with formally protected estates through the State Government would help protect a very significant area.



A less formal approach than the title binding nature refuge taken by landholders is the non-title binding "Land for Wildlife". This carries no legal obligations, so provides no legal, long-term security for protection of cassowary habitat. However it is useful in generating greater awareness of the need to protect habitat and a good first step for landholders tentative about entering conservation agreements.

Whilst the solution to the cassowaries' problems is not a simple one, landholders and Government can work together to build a comprehensive protected area for cassowaries in North Queensland. For more information contact John Rainbird - [caf nec@caf nec.org.au](mailto:caf nec@caf nec.org.au)

## Regional Snapshots

**Hamamatsu, Japan** - The 20th IFPRA World Congress will be held 6 - 10 September, 2004 in Hamamatsu. Unfortunately the date listed in the last issue of the circular was incorrect.

The theme of the congress is 'New Capability, Green Renaissance'. For further information, please visit the website [www.ics-inc.co.jp/IFPRA2004](http://www.ics-inc.co.jp/IFPRA2004)

## Chairpersons Message

Man's impact on the environment is highlighted in the salinity problems now facing Australia. Similar environmental problems are now facing every country whether they be air or water pollution or just plastic bags littering the landscape. This issue outlines the loss of land in Australia and also features an article on the southern cassowary which highlights again our inter relationship with the natural environment. I urge members to read these articles, visit the websites and to consider the small changes they can make in their own lives to reduce their impact on the environment. After all we expect to have and enjoy quality open spaces and reap the health benefits of an active lifestyle. If only a fraction of the money spent on weapons was redirected towards protecting the natural environment, what a wonder World we would live in.

## Commissioners News

### Members Profile: Mr. Otto Fung - IFPRA Commissioner

Otto Fung is a Senior Project Manager with the Design & Development Branch of National Parks Board (NParks). His primary responsibility in NParks is designing of parks, open spaces and park connectors.

Otto holds a Bachelor's Degree in Landscape Architecture from Utah State University, USA. He has 30 years of working experience. His more notable projects including East Coast Park, Changi International Airport, and the new Parliament House.

Otto is also one of the founder members of the Singapore Institute of Landscape Architects (SILA) and its current Vice President, Vice President of the Institute of Parks and Recreation (IPR) and the Singapore Commissioner of IFPRA.



### Circular Production Team and Credits:

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# Regional Noticeboard

## 2004

IFPRA World  
 Venue: City of Hamamatsu, Japan.  
 Date: 6-10 September, 2004.  
 Website: <http://www.ics-inc.co.jp/IFPRA2004/>

NZRA National Conference  
 Remarkable Recreation Queenstown, NZ.  
 Venue: Queenstown, NZ.  
 Date: 22 - 25 August, 2004.  
 Website: <http://www.nzrecreation.org.nz>

8th World Leisure Conference  
 Venue: Brisbane Convention Centre, Australia  
 Date: 12 - 17 September, 2004.  
 Website: <http://www.parks-leisure.com.au>

## 2005

IFPRA Asia-Pacific  
 Venue: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.  
 Date: September, 2005.  
 Contact: [datoismail@kpkt.gov.my](mailto:datoismail@kpkt.gov.my)

Argentina	60,000	7
Australia	30,000	3
Canada	20,000	11
England	550,000	1
Fiji	55,000	12

## 2005

The 5th China International Garden and Flower Expo  
 Venue: Shenzhen, China.  
 Date: 16 September 2004 - 16 March, 2005  
 Website: <http://www.shenzhengarden.com>

## 2006

IFPRA Europe  
 Venue: Annecy, France.  
 Date: 11 - 14 September, 2006.  
 Contact: [jean-claude.gauthier@ville-annecy.fr](mailto:jean-claude.gauthier@ville-annecy.fr)

## 2007

IFPRA World  
 Venue: Glasgow, Scotland.  
 Date: TBA  
 Contact: J. Conway Tel: +44 (0) 141 287 9508

## 2008

IFPRA Asia Pacific  
 Venue: TBA  
 Date: TBA  
 Contact: [ifpra\\_ap@zip.com.au](mailto:ifpra_ap@zip.com.au)

## Rugby World Cup 2003

At the time of going to print the World's 3rd largest sporting event was underway in Australia. The first game of the Rugby World Cup 2003 was held on the 10 October, 2003 in Sydney and an estimated 1 billion viewers throughout the World saw the Opening Ceremony and first game. Other games will be held in stadiums throughout Australia with the Grand Final also in Sydney on November, 22. **Website:** [www.rugby2003.com.au](http://www.rugby2003.com.au). The teams, registered players in each country and their World ranking are:

France	250,000	4
Georgia	2,000	17
Ireland	75,000	6
Italy	40,000	13
Japan	155,000	15
Namibia	3,000	19
New Zealand	135,000	2
Romania	12,000	18
Samoa	15,000	10
Scotland	45,000	8
South Africa	310,000	5
Tonga	8,000	14
Uruguay	15,000	20
USA	34,000	16
Wales	55,000	9